

St. Marks

National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations 2014-2015

General Provisions

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge is one of over 500 national wildlife refuges. The primary objective of the refuge is to provide habitat for conservation and protection of all species of wildlife. The harvest of surplus animals is one tool used to maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with habitat.

The regulations listed below supplement the general regulations which govern hunting on wildlife refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable state regulations. For all hunts except small game, weapon restrictions are in accordance with State regulations.

Specific Hunting Regulations

All game must be checked out at designated check stations.

Public hunting is permitted on approximately 32,000 acres as shown on this map.

All hunters must possess identification, a Florida hunting license, and a valid refuge hunt permit for the hunt in which they are participating. State Management Area stamps are not required. A state archery stamp will be required for all archery hunts. A turkey stamp is required to hunt turkey. State and Federal waterfowl stamps are required to hunt waterfowl. State deer permit required for all refuge deer hunters.

St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 68
St. Marks, FL 32355
850/925 6121
<http://www.fws.gov/saintmarks/>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://southeast.fws.gov>

August 2014



Foot/vehicle access into the refuge hunt area will be through designated access points(see map). No access along portions of public roads (see map). Vehicular access shown on map may vary according to weather and ground conditions. Vehicles are restricted to established roads. Boat access not permitted except to Piney Island for waterfowl hunting.

Pre-hunt scouting on foot is allowed anytime during daylight hours. The hunt area will be open to vehicles, weather permitting, two days before each quota hunt. Vehicle access in hunt area by permitted hunters only. Portions of the hunt area may be temporarily closed due to wildlife management practices such as prescribed burns.

All hunters participating in the small game/hog hunt and December quota gun hunts and other users in the hunt area, must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange-colored material above the waistline. All other hunters are encouraged to wear orange for their safety.

Stand hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 1/2 hours after sunrise are observed during big game hunts as a hunter courtesy.

During all hunts for hogs, there are no restrictions on the size or number taken.

Youth hunters (younger than 16 years) must possess a valid refuge permit and be supervised by a permitted adult 21 years of age or older and must remain within

sight and normal voice contact of the adult. For big game hunts, the adult may supervise only one youth. For small game hunts, the adult may supervise no more than two youths.

Prohibited Activities

Target practice is prohibited.

Wood gathering, camping, littering, and fires are prohibited.

Leashed dogs may be used for trailing injured game. Other use of dogs prohibited except for Piney Island Waterfowl hunt.

Unleashed dogs prohibited.

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages in refuge hunting areas is prohibited.

The placing of or hunting over bait is prohibited.

Prohibited Activities continued

It is unlawful to insert a nail, spike or other metal object into any tree or to hunt from any tree in which a nail, spike or other metal object has been inserted.

Hunting from any paved or unpaved refuge road is prohibited.

Use of flagging tape and reflective tacks prohibited. Painting or defacing plants or trees prohibited.

ATV's are prohibited on refuge hunts.

Hunting within 1000 feet of any residence or public area prohibited.

This leaflet must be signed to be valid for the December 26-January 4 small game and St. Marks Unit hunts. It must be carried by the hunter while hunting. Companions must also have this permit while in hunt area. Gates not open for pre-hunt scouting by vehicles.

Name *(Please print)* _____
I have read and understand the refuge hunting regulations.

Signature *(Permits are not transferable)* _____

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cleaning of game within 1000 feet of any developed public recreation area is prohibited.

The refuge is open to daylight use only.

Quota Hunts Permits

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) will be handling all quota hunt permits for St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Applications may be submitted at any license agent or tax collector or on-line at myfwc.com/hunting under the Limited Entry/Quota Hunts Section beginning 10am (Eastern Time) June 1, 2014 ending June 30, 2014. Spring Turkey application period will begin November 1, 2014.

Panacea Unit Fall Archery

200 permits - November 4-8, 2014
Tuesday - Saturday

Species: deer and hogs, either sex and turkey (gobbler or bearded turkey). All game must be checked out at Otter Lake Check Station.

Area: Panacea Unit only.

Wakulla Unit Fall Archery

200 permits - November 11-15, 2014
Tuesday - Saturday

Species: deer and hogs, either sex and turkey (gobbler or bearded turkey). All game must be checked out at the Wakulla Beach Check Station.

Wakulla Unit General Gun Hunt

150 permits - December 13-15, 2014
Saturday - Monday

Species: white-tailed deer (see bag limits below); hogs - either sex.

Area: Wakulla Unit only. Daily check-in/check-out required at the Wakulla Beach check station.

Panacea Unit General Gun Hunt

80 permits - December 19-21, 2014
Friday - Sunday

Species: white-tailed deer (see bag limits below); hogs - either sex.

Area: Panacea Unit only. Daily check-in/check-out required at the Otter Lake check station.

Mobility-impaired Person Gun Hunt

15 permits - December 13-15, 2014
Saturday - Monday

Species: white-tailed deer (see bag limits below); hogs, either sex.

Area: section of Panacea Unit west of Highway 372 (Buckhorn Creek area).

All Quota Hunts Bag Limit: Two deer per hunt, either two antlerless deer or one antlerless deer and one antlered deer. Antlerless deer are defined per state regulations as deer with no antler or antlers less than 5". Antlered deer must have at least 3 points, 1 inch or greater in length on one antler to be harvested. Unlimited hogs. Youth hunters 15 years and younger may harvest any deer except spotted fawn during archery season, bag limits apply. One bearded turkey per hunter may be taken during archery quota.

Spring Gobbler

100 permits - April 14-18, 2015 Tuesday - Saturday, hunting hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise until 1 pm ET.

Species: bearded turkeys only. Bag limit: one turkey per hunt.

Area: Panacea and Wakulla Units only. All game must be checked out at designated check stations.

Non-quota Hunt Permits

Small Game and Hogs

December 26, 2014 - January 4, 2015

Species: gray squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and hogs.

Area: both Panacea and Wakulla Units and Aucilla River Area.

Weapons: restricted to .22 calibre rimfire firearms or smaller; shotguns with non-toxic shot, #4 bird shot or smaller, or muzzleloaders. Hunters may **also** use shotgun slugs, buckshot, archery equipment or pistols to take feral hogs. The use of other weapons is prohibited.

(Permits: available on website and refuge office)

Piney Island Waterfowl Hunt / State Season

Species: ducks and coots.

Area: Piney Island only.

Weapons: non-toxic shot only. Hunting from blinds left in area for more than one day prohibited. Remove blinds daily. Use of island plants for blinds prohibited.

Permits: No specific refuge permit required.

Port Leon Youth Hunting Area

Youth Deer Hunt - December 6-7, 2014.

Youth Spring Gobbler Hunt - April 11-12, 2015.

Applications available online in the Youth Opportunities Section: <http://www.myfwc.com/hunting/>

St. Marks Unit Hunt Area

This hunt area is east of the St. Marks River (see map). Access is limited to Refuge Road 1 off US 98, ¾ mile east of County Road 59 (Lighthouse Road).

Archery Season:

September 13 - October 12, 2014 state legal archery equipment only.

Muzzleloading Gun Season:

October 18 - 31, 2014, state legal primitive weapon equipment only.

General Gun Season:

November 1, 2014 - Jan. 18, 2015, state rules regarding weapons and ammunition apply.

Legal to hunt: Antlered deer must have at least three points, one inch or greater in length on one antler to be harvested. Archery hunters may also take antlerless deer (which includes does, and bucks with antlers less than five inches in length, but not spotted fawn), and turkey of either sex. State harvest limits apply. Wild hogs unlimited.

Spring Turkey Season:

Youth Turkey, March 14 -15, 2015.

Spring Turkey, March 21 - April 26, 2015.

Shotguns only, bearded turkeys only, no hunting after 1 pm, state harvest limits apply.

Small Game Season:

January 19 - March 1, 2015. (Same regulations for species and weapons listed under the *Small Game and Hogs*.)

License requirements – Signed refuge hunting brochure, Florida hunting license, appropriate state stamp for weapon being used (and game being hunted).

All *Prohibited Activities* listed previously in this brochure apply. Hunters (except turkey hunters) using firearms must wear a minimum of 500 square inches of fluorescent orange-colored material above the waistline. Archery hunters are encouraged to wear orange colored material.

